



**For Immediate Release**

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**Gregg: Growth in Budgetary Commitment to Health Care is NOT Reform**

Senator Judd Gregg, ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee and senior member of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee commented on the letter to Congress from the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) today regarding its analyses of health reform proposals and how they change the federal budgetary commitment to health care. CBO's letter today reveals what the House majority did not want to highlight, which is that the House bill would increase the federal budgetary commitment to health care in the first 10 years by \$598 billion, rather than reduce it, which was supposed to be the intended purpose of reform legislation. The House legislation increases the federal budgetary commitment to health care in the decade after 2019 as well.

Senator Gregg stated, "We all know health care reform is necessary. America is on an unsustainable budgetary path that will bankrupt our nation if we do not control our entitlement spending and costs of government programs, particularly health programs, in the next few years. However, today's analysis provided by CBO is disturbing—the House's health care reform legislation explodes the government's budgetary commitment to health care, rather than reduces it. Simply put: health care reform spends more on America's health care than ever before. This is unacceptable and is completely the opposite of how the Administration claimed it was going to approach reducing the deficit. No longer can they claim that they can reduce deficits by containing health care spending since nearly every Democratic health proposal increases the federal government's commitment of resources to health care. Not only has the reform boat sailed off course, it has taken on water and is in danger of sinking America's ability to truly get health care costs under control. What we need now is viable and bipartisan solutions that bring about change more than in name only."

The federal budgetary commitment to health care includes both the federal government's spending for health care, as well as the subsidies for health care that are conveyed through reductions in federal taxes (or tax expenditures).

A copy of the letter and analysis can be found here:  
<http://cbo.gov/ftpdocs/106xx/doc10689/hr3962ClarifyMeasuresBaucusLtr.pdf>

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